

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1136

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, PEPR, KS, KN, TZ
SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN VICE PRESIDENT VISITS TANZANIA

REF: STATE 060433

1. SUMMARY. NORTH KOREAN VICE PRESIDENT PAK SONG CHOL'S VISIT TO TANZANIA MARCH 4-9 WAS LONG ON RHETORIC BUT EVIDENTLY SHORT ON SUBSTANCE. NORTH KOREANS USED OPPORTUNITIES AS AVAILABLE TO PUSH PUBLICLY THEIR POSITION ON KOREAN REUNIFICATION. THERE WAS NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE. END SUMMARY.
2. VICE PRESIDENT PAK, WITH A 17-MAN ENTOURAGE, VISITED TANZANIA MARCH 4-MARCH 9. HIS VISIT MAY HAVE RECIPROCATED VICE PRESIDENT JUMBE'S TOUR OF NORTH KOREA IN DECEMBER 1976.
3. VISIT STARTED OFF WITH A NORTH KOREAN ARRIVAL STATEMENT CENTERED ON SOUTH KOREA. THE STATEMENT SAID US EFFORTS TO BRING SOUTH KOREA INTO THE UN WERE "A DECEPTIVE TRICK" AIMED AT FURTHER

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DIVIDING KOREA AND DELAYING REUNIFICATION. KOREA WOULD ONLY SEEK UN ADMISSION WHEN COUNTRY UNIFIED. STATEMENT SAID IF SOUTH KOREA ADMITTED, THREAT OF WAR WOULD BE INCREASED. IT BLAMED JOINT US-SOUTH KOREAN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES (SAID TO BE STARTING MARCH 7) FOR "EGGING ON SOUTH KOREAN PUPPETS INTO MILITARY ADVENTURE."

4. RITUAL WELCOMING EDITORIAL IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS
HAILED "GROWING FRIENDLY RELATIONS" BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND
TANZANIA. IT NOTED HOW PEOPLE OF KOREA HAD SUFFERED IN THE PAST
FROM JAPANESE COLONIALISM. NO SOONER HAD KOREANS DEFEATED
JAPANESE THAN COUNTRY DIVIDED BY "THE OCCUPATION OF THE SOUTH BY
AMERICAN TROOPS." EDITORIAL SAID NORTH KOREA HAD SINCE SERVED
AS A MODEL OF SELF-RELIANCE FOR THE REST OF THE DEVELOPING
WORLD. EDITORIAL'S CLOSING SENTENCE ATTEMPTED TO DRAW A PARALLEL
BETWEEN TANZANIA'S PROBLEM WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA AND NORTH
KOREA'S PROBLEM WITH SOUTH KOREA: "IN SOUTH KOREA AS IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA, IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
AS IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN
OUR COOPERATION AND ADVANCE TOWARDS VICTORY."

5. AFTER THE INITIAL BURST OF RHETORIC, PAK'S VISIT SETTLED
INTO A LACKLUSTER ROUTINE OF VISITS TO GAME PARKS AND ZANZIBAR.
LEVEL OF PUBLICITY FOR VISIT IN TANGOV MEDIA GENERALLY
REMAINED HIGH UNTIL LAST TWO DAYS. PAK HAD A 45-MINUTE MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE, WHICH IS THE USUAL MINIMUM FOR A
COURTESY CALL BY A HIGH-RANKING VISITOR. HE GAVE NYERERE A
PERSONAL LETTER FROM KIM IL-SUNG. PAK'S VISIT ENDED WITH FAR LESS
FANFARE THAN HIS ARRIVAL. THERE WAS NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

6. COMMENT. TANGOV VIEWS NORTH KOREA AS A COUNTRY THAT HAS
MADE IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS TOWARDS SELF-SUFFICIENCY. SOME TANGOV
LEADERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE NORTH KOREAN-STYLE DISCIPLINE AT
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HOME BUT HAVE PRETTY MUCH CONCLUDED THAT IT WON'T WORK IN AFRICA.
TANGOV WOULD PROBABLY TAKE LITTLE INTEREST IN KOREAN ISSUE IF
IT DID NOT INVOLVE THIRD WORLD CONCERNS AND SOLIDARITY.
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